

Foster Parents and Caregivers

Changing Lives One Child at a Time

April 2008



Statewide Quarterly Consultation Session

The next statewide quarterly consultation session is April 23, 2008 at Casey Family Services Field Office, 1123 23rd Ave, Seattle, WA 98122 (206) 322-6711 1:00 to 4:00. Contact your regional foster parent representatives for more information.

May is National Foster Care Month – Washington Celebrates May 6, 2008

Each May, the nation salutes the compassionate people who make a difference by serving as foster parents, relative caregivers, mentors, advocates, social workers, and volunteers. Washington will honor and recognize foster and relative caregivers in Olympia on May 6, 2008 from 10:00 to 12:30 at Capitol Campus Legislative Building, Columbia Room. Come join your fellow foster and relative caregivers, Children's Administration, Casey Family Programs and the community to celebrate. The agenda includes:

- Presentations by John Seals foster youth, Passion to Action youth, foster parents and other dignitaries
- Catered Lunch
- Door prizes
- Music and lots of fun

For more information contact your regional Children's Administration contact or Michael Luque, Foster Care & Kinship Care Program Manager 360-902-7986 or lumi300@dshs.wa.gov.

"Foster Parenting – You Can Too"

Foster Parenting – You Can Too is the new slogan our foster parent recruitment and retention contractors across the state will be using starting April 1. Children's Administration and the statewide recruitment and retention contractors collaborated over the past several months with expert consultants from AdoptUsKids to enhance and improve our recruitment and retention efforts. We used research to determine marketing strategies for target populations. We asked the DSHS Office of Publications to help design a new slogan and logo based on the demographics, input from the contractors, staff and caregivers. Over 1000 foster parents, relative caregivers, private agency staff and CA staff responded to an on-line survey to select the slogan and logo. The design is bright, bold, upbeat and geared at compelling people to act on the need for foster parents in our state. Check it out at: <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/>.

Foster Care to 21 – A program that assists young adults and foster parents

Do you have a foster youth in your care that is about to graduate from high school and wants to stay in foster care while they attend college or a vocational program?

Caregivers of youth accepted into the program will continue to receive the basic foster care rate to assist youth in achieving these goals. For additional information, please contact the FC to 21 Program Manager, Jim Pritchard at 360-902-8487 or email at prji300@dshs.wa.gov or the youth assigned social worker.

Good News for 7th and 8th Grade Students – To realize their college dreams

The College Bound Scholarship is a financial aid program for students who are eligible to participate in the free and reduced-price lunch program. It is designed to inspire students to begin making their college and career plans without about the cost of attending college.

Eligible students sign a pledge in the 7th and 8th grade promising to graduate from high school, maintain a 2.0 GPA, and be good citizens. In exchange, the state of Washington will pay for their college tuition and books – for up to four years of until the student earns a bachelor's degree.

For more information please contact College Bound staff at 1-888-352-0747 or by e-mail at collegebound@hecb.wa.gov.

Important Resources and Numbers

Important numbers to know when you take care of children in out of home care.

Foster Parent and Caregiver Crisis and Support Line: 1-800-301-1868.

On-Going and Crisis Supports for foster parents

Under contracts with the state, three private agencies are working to build supports for you within the foster care community. Supports include hubs, support groups and matching new foster parents with veteran foster parents. To get connected:

- If you live in eastern Washington, the Olympic Peninsula down through Pacific County or from Thurston County to Clark County, call 1-888-794-1794.
- If you live in King County, call 206-605-0664 and in any county from Snohomish County north, call 360-510-7601 or 360-863-6530.
- If you live in Pierce or Kitsap counties, call 253-473-9252.

Family Help Line: 1-800-932-HOPE or www.parenttrust.org. The Family Help Line is a free, statewide training and referral line for the families of Washington State. Last year, the Family Help Line received over 5,000 calls and requests for information. Calls can last up to 90 minutes and parents can call as often as needed.

Support for foster parents under investigation for allegations of abuse or neglect: **Foster Parent Investigation Retention Support Team (FIRST)** 1-253-219-6782. Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., or leave a message and receive a return call within 24 hours.

Foster Parent and Caregiver Crisis and Support Line: 1-800-301-1868.

Mental Health Crisis Line Information: The crisis line telephone number for your county or region is available on the DSHS Mental Health Division website at: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/mentalhealth/crisis.shtml>.

General foster parent information for the state of Washington

FPAWS: Foster Parent Association of Washington State, 1-800-391-CARE (2273) or www.fpaws.org. FPAWS is seeking new members and supporting foster parents in many ways, including referrals to local associations.

Kitsap and Pierce County information about becoming a foster parent or to receive foster parent support: **Foster Care Resource Network**, 1-253-473-9252. Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. or leave a message and receive a return call by the next business day.

NEW – Resource Information Available Statewide

Get connected to information on resources in your area by calling 211 – a toll free number.

Children's Administration Foster Parent Website: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/>

Children's Administration Foster Parent Training Website – Trainings are open to all licensed foster parents, licensed relative caregivers and unlicensed caregivers. For information about foster parent and caregiver training, check out: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/training.asp>

Children's Administration Foster Care Listserv

For updated information on resources for the work you do in caring for children, join the 400 people who have subscribed to the Listserv at: <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=fosterparents&&A=1>